

Summary

The feeding behavior of Conus californicus has been investigated under aquarium conditions. Gastropods of the genera Nassarius and Polinices and a number of species of polychaetes have been stung and eaten under these conditions. In the field, C. californicus has been observed feeding on dead specimens of a number of species of gastropods, pelecypods, polychaetes and fishes. C. californicus is, therefore, less specific in its food habits than many species of Conus which were found by Kohn (1959) to feed exclusively upon either polychaetes or other gastropods or fishes.

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Rediscovery of Cypraea marginata GASKOIN, 1848

by

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(Plate 14)

It seems important that mention be made of one of the most interesting discoveries in recent years among the Cypraeidae, namely a second specimen of Cypraea marginata Gaskoin, 1848. This live-taken specimen came to me with the acquisition of the fine Cypraea collection made by the late Lloyd E. Berry after his death in October 1959. Mr. Berry had surmised that his shell was C. marginata when he received it among a mixed lot of specimens sent him by a fellow collector in Australia, but owing to his frail health was unable to follow through and have its identification authenticated. It is now my pleasure to realize this wish on his behalf.

Gaskoin's holotype of Cypraea marginata is in the British Museum. Due to its uniqueness, various authors in the past have questioned the validity of this species. Tryon (1882), Hidalgo (1906), and Allan (1956) all refer to it as either a juvenile or an abnormal specimen of C. thersites Gaskoin, 1848. Schilder (1930) compares it with C. friendi Gray, 1831, though recognizing C. marginata as valid. The discovery of the second specimen of C. marginata, matching as it does all the features of the holotype, should put an end to the conjectures of the past as to whether or not the species is valid. Although it exhibits a close relationship to C. thersites, and to a somewhat lesser degree to C. friendi,



Figure 1



Figure 2

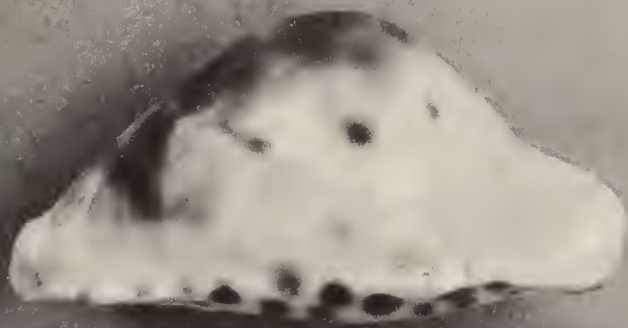


Figure 3



Figure 4

Cypraea marginata GASKOIN, 1848

Figure 1: Dorsal Aspect

Figure 2: Right Side

Figure 3: Left Side

Figure 4: Ventral Aspect

